

EXHIBIT A

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Cc: [Nathan Tilden](#); [John Tertan](#); [Brian M. Epstein](#)
Subject: Allstate v. ZMC -- Discovery Deficiencies
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 11:43:44 AM
Attachments: [ZMC Pharmacy's Progress Notes.pdf](#)
[Balance Sheet Email 12.19.18.pdf](#)
[Email re Case Management Referral Team 5.31.16.pdf](#)
[Representative Examples of Patient Referrals to ZMC.pdf](#)

Good morning:

Per our conference last week, Allstate sends written notice of the defendants' continued discovery deficiencies and violations of Judge Stafford's Order.

Your clients have continuously failed to engage in good faith in their discovery production and representations to the Court. The latest responses and documents produced by ZMC Pharmacy, L.L.C. ("ZMC Pharmacy") to Allstate's Third Set of Requests for Production of Documents are deficient and must be corrected immediately. For example, Request No. 1 seeks "[d]ocuments, agreements, and communications ... relating to management fees paid by [ZMC Pharmacy] during the relevant period as exemplified by the invoice attached hereto as Exhibit A." ZMC Pharmacy's production of "an email chain ... relating to the management fee attached as Exhibit A" is not responsive to Allstate's request. However, the email chain produced does state that the management fee was "for Mike Gill for [sic] doing [ZMC Pharmacy's] books." As such, all documents utilized by Mike Gill to do ZMC Pharmacy's books relating to the management fee paid by ZMC Pharmacy are responsive to this request and must be produced.

ZMC Pharmacy's objection to Request No. 2 is improper. ZMC Pharmacy's objection is nothing more than a restatement of the scope of discovery allowed under Rule 26 that fails to identify how Allstate's request seeks information that is not relevant and not proportional to the needs of the case. "Simply quoting the Federal Rules is obviously not a legitimate objection, as it fails to actually identify anything objectionable about the discovery requests." Se. Mich. Surgical Hosp., LLC v. Little, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 225321, *3 (E.D. Mich. Dec. 13, 2019). A party objecting to a discovery request must particularly state the objection grounds; a boilerplate objection has no legal effect. *See, e.g., Four Fibers, L.L.C. v. Keps Techs., Inc.*, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 205930, *4 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 27, 2019) (collecting cases); *see also Siser N. Am., Inc. v. Herika G. Inc.*, 325 F.R.D. 200, 209-10 (E.D. Mich. 2018) ("Boilerplate objections are legally meaningless and amount to a waiver of an objection"). Moreover, "[a]n objection must state whether any responsive materials are being withheld on the basis of that objection." Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(b)(2)(c). Additionally, Magistrate Judge Stafford has previously held that "[a] party objecting to a request for production of documents as burdensome must submit affidavits or other evidence to substantiate its objections." Cratty v. City of Wyandotte, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 200194, *6 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 8, 2017), citing In Re Heparin Products Liab. Litig., 273 F.R.D. 399, 410-411 (N.D. Ohio 2011). ZMC Pharmacy has failed to provide a single affidavit or any other evidence to substantiate its assertion that "the burden or expense of gathering the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit." Thus, ZMC Pharmacy cannot support a claim that it will incur an undue burden in responding to Allstate's discovery request. Judge Stafford has also expressly rejected this argument from your clients before.

Your clients have failed to remedy ongoing discovery issues such as producing complete patient files to Allstate. For example, not a single patient file that was produced to Allstate on January 5, 2021 contains the "Progress Notes" document that was produced with each patient file on March 31, 2021 and April 16, 2021. The progress notes that have been produced to date are each on ZMC Pharmacy letterhead and identify notes authored by ZMC Pharmacy employees relating to the patient at issue. As such, these are part of the patient file and must be produced.

Allstate has also identified numerous misrepresentations by Jalal Zawaideh ("Zawaideh") in his discovery responses. For example, in response to Allstate's request for "documents related to ZMC Pharmacy's utilization of revenue, including general ledgers, balance sheets, profit and loss statements, income statements, annual budgets, and disbursement logs, during the relevant period," Zawaideh advised his previous counsel that "ZMC doesn't generate the information requested. ZMC will produce the general ledgers for the relevant time period from which the requested information may be derived." See ECF No. 86, PageID3402. Despite the representation made to the Court that ZMC Pharmacy does not generate balance sheets, Zawaideh received a balance sheet dated November 30, 2018 from Michael Gill on December 19, 2018 (attached). This also confirms the existence of documents that were utilized by Michael Gill when he was paid for "doing [ZMC Pharmacy's] books" as discussed above.

As another example, in response to Allstate's first set of requests for production of documents No. 16 seeking "documents tracking the referral sources of Allstate Insureds to you during the relevant period," Zawaideh responded that "neither he nor ZMC have 'referral sources'[" Zawaideh also objected to Allstate's Interrogatory No. 6 asking Zawaideh to "describe how ZMC Pharmacy obtained business during the relevant period" using the same improper objection that simply restates the scope of discovery allowed under Rule 26. Allstate's discovery to date has identified several case management companies that have referred patients at issue in Allstate's Complaint to ZMC Pharmacy. See representative examples of referrals attached. In fact, Allstate has also identified a substantial amount of text messages by and between Zawaideh and several individuals who were identified as case managers who referred patients to ZMC Pharmacy. Moreover, Allstate has obtained an email from Zawaideh that references his "case management referral team" in addition to a presentation that ZMC Pharmacy was asked to sponsor in which Zawaideh further stated "[t]he audience will be about 40 docs that treat auto" (Email dated May 31, 2016 attached). Thus, Zawaideh is well aware that ZMC Pharmacy utilizes case management companies and other referral sources yet failed to produce this information to Allstate.

Allstate has obtained additional evidence identifying "misrepresentations" in your clients' responses that it will use in the forthcoming motion to compel if your clients do not immediately supplement their responses (again) to provide truthful answers to Allstate's discovery requests served upon them to date.

As you know, the parties have already conferred on these issues. Allstate will give the defendants until after the settlement conference to resolve these issues, then Allstate will proceed with a motion for contempt and motion to compel.

Thanks,

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